

January 25, 2002

Attorney General John Ashcroft  
US Department of Justice  
950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20530-0001

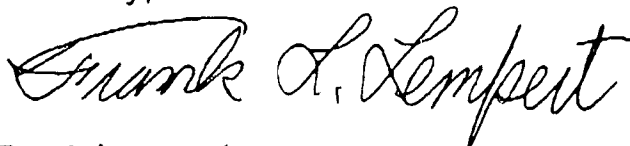
Dear Mr. Ashcroft:

I am pleased that a settlement has been proposed to Microsoft by the U.S. Department of Justice. This settlement is long overdue. I understand that we are currently in a sixty-day period for comments on what is in the best interest of the public. In light of this, I am taking this opportunity to express my views on the matter.

Microsoft opponents persistently seek to give the impression that Microsoft has gotten away with easy terms. I beg to differ! If the millions of dollars that they had to spend in their defense is no indication the very opposite is true, then look at all the concessions they have agreed to make. For example, Microsoft has agreed to grant their competitors licensure to their intellectual property. Competitors will now also have the assurance of interoperability within the Windows environment because Microsoft has agreed to disclose Windows protocols. Future versions of Windows will also allow users and computer makers to reconfigure Windows to remove portions of the operating system and substitute competing alternatives.

In my estimation, Microsoft obvious willingness to cooperate with these terms should be enough to abate the concerns of the dissatisfied states. I hope that your decision will bring this matter well-needed closure.

Sincerely,



Frank Lempert